Amendment

The Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8 and ending at line 15. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--Error diffusion binarizes multi-valued image data of a pixel of interest (converts it into the darkest or lightest level), and distributes and adds the difference (error) between the converted binary level and the value before binarization to surrounding pixels, as described in, e.g., R. FLOYD & L. STEINBERG, "AN ADAPTIVE ALGORITHM FOR SPATIAL GRAY SCALE", SID 75 DIGEST, pp. 36 - 37.--

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 6 and ending at line 11. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--A preferred embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings. Note that "density" hereinafter means an optical density of ink landed on a printing medium. Further, "multi-density" ink means that there are different optical densities of inks.--

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 19 and ending at line 23. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

*03*

-- The aforementioned print elements are driven based on a predetermined print signal in accordance with the read timing of the linear encoder 28, and form an image by making ink droplets fly and become attached onto the print sheet 24. --.

Please insert the following paragraph beginning at page 27, after line 26.

*04*

-- If the density gradient information indicates that the upper left density is not high, the process proceeds to step S106. The unit pixel is switched to the upper right unit pixel $(i1+1, j1)$. If the density gradient information indicates that the upper right density is high, a density pattern "RU" is selected. (Step S111). If the density gradient information indicates that the upper right density is not high, flow proceeds to step S107. Here, it is determined whether the lower left unit pixel $(i1, j1+1)$ has a high density. If the density gradient information indicates that the lower left density is high, a density pattern "LL" is selected. (Step S112). If the density gradient information indicates that the lower left density is not high, a density pattern "RL" is selected. (Step S113). --.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12 and 13 and add new Claim 14 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12 and 13, showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including